



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

RWANDA

COUNTRY PROFILE



Agnes Mukanshijo is a member of the Twizamure Association, a group of farmers—mostly widows and orphans of the 1994 genocide—that is growing geraniums for use in the perfume industry. USAID supports the association as one of many strategies to create more opportunities for income in rural areas.

RWANDA SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1962
Population: 8.4 million (2004)
Income per person: \$220 (yr)

Source: World Bank Development Indicators

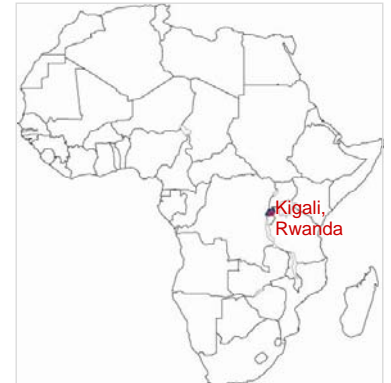
USAID IN RWANDA

www.usaid-rwanda.rw

OVERVIEW

Twelve years after the genocide that left nearly one million Rwandans dead, major milestones on the road to recovery are in place. It is a relatively safe country in a turbulent neighborhood, but it must constantly weigh its need for internal and external security against the gradual democratization and decentralization that the country requires to promote economic growth. With a population growth rate of 2.9 percent and 329 persons per square kilometer, Rwanda

is implementing a newly passed and long anticipated land law. Rwanda has provided peacekeeping troops under the auspices of the African Union to the troubled Darfur region of Sudan, is a key ally of the United States for the promotion of peace in the Great Lakes Region, and has squarely supported the U.S.-led War on Terror. USAID focuses on democracy and governance, health and HIV/AIDS, and rural economic growth in the country.



PROGRAMS

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Three years after presidential and parliamentary elections and the adoption of a new constitution, there is progress in shifting responsibility for government services to the local level. At the same time, because of concerns about a return of violent ethnic divisions, the government has retained limits on the freedom of expression of political parties and the media. USAID is actively working to create a more open political dialogue through its democracy and governance programs. USAID's work on fiscal decentralization led to the development of two systems manuals covering budget and treasury. Using these manuals, at least 85 percent of the districts in the country are producing new accounting reports on a consistent basis. A total of 551 *Gacaca* (traditional court) judges were trained in sexual and gender-based violence issues. These judges then trained 21,630 sector-level judges, who then trained a total of 126,182 *Gacaca* judges at the local level.

IMPROVING HEALTH CARE

Life expectancy in Rwanda is only 40 years. One child in five does not live to age five. HIV/AIDS prevalence at 3.0 percent indicates an entrenched epidemic. USAID programs reduce maternal and neonatal mortality; improve the quality and sustained use of family planning; reduce malnutrition

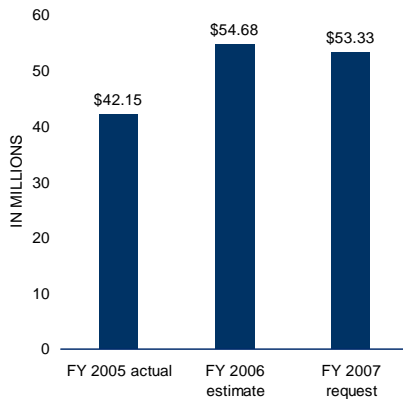


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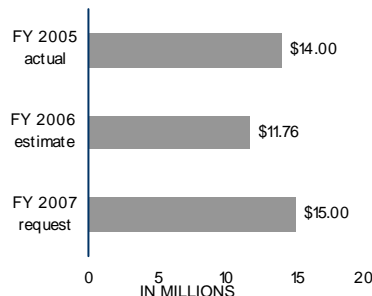
RWANDA

COUNTRY PROFILE CONTINUED

USAID ASSISTANCE TO RWANDA



USAID FOOD AID TO RWANDA



For more information, see the
FY2007 Congressional Budget Justification
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/budget/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mission Director Designate
Kevin Mullally
B.P. 2848
Kigali
Rwanda
Tel: 250-570-940

Olu Cole
Rwanda Desk Officer
202-712-5453
Email: ocole@usaid.gov

among children; prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria; and protect the health of the poor. USAID encourages community-managed pre-paid health insurance schemes (*mutuelles*); members of these *mutuelles* are five times more likely to seek modern health care than a nonmember. *Mutuelles* contribute to stronger financial capacity at their partner health facilities, with some generating up to 75 percent of total revenue for their corresponding health center. Overall membership is now over 2.8 million.

Rwanda is a focus country under President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and began full implementation of this program in 2004. With U.S. support, 72 facilities provide voluntary counseling and testing services to over 145,400 people. Sixty-two clinical facilities are providing ARV services, and 64 facilities provide prevention of mother to child transmission to 50,529 pregnant women with 3,134 women receiving ARV prophylaxis.

INCREASING RURAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Forty percent of Rwanda's Gross Domestic Product is based on subsistence agriculture. Due to fluctuations in rainfall, agricultural production and food prices vary sharply from year to year. To reduce the threat to livelihoods of subsistence farmers that make up 90 percent of the population, USAID's economic growth program expands opportunities in rural areas and increases the diversity of off-farm businesses, agricultural productivity, household level incomes, employment, and corresponding rural financial services for targeted communities. Rural infrastructure improvements contribute to increased productivity and diversification of income.

USAID is helping farmers produce better quality specialty coffee. Production rose from 800 metric tons in 2004 to 1,100 metric tons in 2005, and the number of international buyers increased by 56 percent. Starbucks gave two Rwandan coffee cooperatives supported by USAID its coveted Black Apron award for 2005 and featured Rwandan coffee in 5,000 stores in the spring of 2006. Thanks to USAID support, Rwandan craftspeople struck a deal with Macy's department stores to supply baskets to the retail giant during the 2005 holiday season, for products valued at \$150,000.

From 2000 to 2005, over 762,000 Rwandans have benefited from food assistance. Food aid activities contribute to employment, improved agricultural technologies, agri-business development, incomes and food security. For example, USAID works with farmers' cooperatives to promote specialty coffee, soil and water conservation through terracing steep slopes, and land reclamation in the wetlands.